

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented method for an end-user to select a service provider from one or more service providers providing services on a network, comprising the steps of:
  - prompting the end-user for end-user information including a geographic location of the end-user;
  - determining based on the end-user information whether the network provides service in the geographic location;
  - displaying to the end-user a list of one or more service providers available to the end-user to provide services on the network;
  - selecting by the end-user one of the one or more service providers as a desired service provider;
  - transmitting the end-user information to the desired service provider;
  - transmitting by the desired service provider end-user service provisioning information to an operations support system of the network;
  - storing an indicator in a digital repository of the operations support system based on the end-user service provisioning information indicating that the end-user has selected the desired service provider for providing a selected service; and
  - providing service to the end-user by the desired service provider based on the indicator.

2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:
  - declining service on the network when it is determined in the determining step that the network does not provide service in the geographic location of the end-user.

3. The method of Claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

storing a declined location indicator in the digital repository corresponding to the geographic location of the end-user;

querying the digital repository for the declined location indicator; and

using the declined location indicator for at least one of planning a future build-out of the network, performing a future marketing study, and performing a future sales and marketing activity.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein:

the selecting step comprises specifying requested services through a registration application of the desired service provider,

the transmitting the end-user information step comprises pre-populating the registration application with the end-user information through an interface with the registration application, and

the transmitting by the desired service provider step comprises transmitting the end-user service provisioning information to the operations support system through an interface.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein:

the selecting step comprises specifying requested services through a registration application of the operations support system, and

the transmitting the end-user information step comprises transmitting an indicator of the requested services to the desired service provider through an interface between the operations support system and the desired service provider.

6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising a step of:

updating the indicator in the digital repository to reflect a change in the selected service through an application of an operations support system.

7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

determining whether the desired service provider has an automated provisioning application; and

transferring control to a provisioning application to collect the end-user service provisioning information, wherein  
the provisioning application comprises the automated provisioning application of the desired service provider when it is determined that the desired service provider has an automated provisioning application, and

the provisioning application comprises a provisioning application of the operations support system when it is determined that the desired service provider does not have an automated provisioning application.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the end-user service provisioning information comprises at least a level of service to be provided to the end-user by the desired service provider.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the network comprises a network dedicated to broadband data transport services.

10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the network comprises a network configured to provide at least one of Internet access, digital video services, analog video services, packetized voice, voice-over-Internet Protocol, interactive video, interactive television, near video-on-demand, video-on-demand, data services, and telephony services.

11. The method of Claim 1, wherein the network comprises an open access network.

12. The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the one or more service providers comprises an Internet service provider.

13. The method of Claim 1, wherein the services comprise at least one of Internet access, digital video services, analog video services, packetized voice, voice-over-Internet Protocol, interactive video, interactive television, near video-on-demand, video-on-demand, data services, and telephony services.

14. A computer-implemented method for an end-user to select a service provider from one or more service providers providing services on a network, comprising the steps of:  
implying an availability of service for the end user through a previous relationship between the end user and a previous service provider;  
prompting the end-user for end-user information including at least one of a name and a previous account number;  
displaying to the end-user a list of one or more service providers available to the end-user to provide services on the network;

selecting by the end-user one of the one or more service providers as a desired service provider;

transmitting the end-user information to the desired service provider;

transmitting by the desired service provider end-user service provisioning information to an operations support system of the network;

storing an indicator in a digital repository of the operations support system based on the end-user service provisioning information indicating that the end-user has selected the desired service provider for providing a selected service; and

providing service to the end-user by the desired service provider based on the indicator.

15. A system for selecting a service provider of a plurality of service providers by an end-user for providing services on a network, comprising:

a digital repository;

a processor; and

a computer readable medium encoded with processor readable instructions that when executed by the processor implement,

an end-user qualification mechanism configured to prompt an end-user for end-user information including a geographic location of the end-user, and to determine based on the end-user information whether the network provides service in the geographic location,

a service provider selection mechanism configured to display to the end-user a list of one or more service providers of the plurality of service providers available to the end-user to provide services on the network and to allow the end-user to select one of the one or more service providers as a desired service provider,

an end-user provisioning mechanism configured to transmit the end-user information to the desired service provider, to collect and transmit end-user service provisioning information to an operations support system of the network, and to store an indicator in the digital repository based on the end-user service provisioning information indicating that the end-user has selected the desired service provider for providing a selected service, and

a service providing mechanism configured to provide services to the end-user by the desired service provider based on the indicator in the digital repository.

16. The system of Claim 15, wherein the end-user qualification mechanism is further configured to decline the end-user for service on the network when it is determined that the network does not provide service in the geographic location of the end-user.

17. The system of Claim 16, wherein:

the end-user qualification mechanism is further configured to store a declined location indicator in the digital repository corresponding to the geographic location of the end-user, to query the digital repository for the declined location indicator, and to use the declined location indicator for at least one of planning a future build-out of the network, performing a future marketing study, and performing a future sales and marketing activity.

18. The system of Claim 15, wherein the end-user provisioning mechanism is further configured to:

transfer an end-user to a registration application of the desired service provider for specifying requested services,

pre-populate the registration application with the end-user information through an interface with the registration application, and

transmit the end-user service provisioning information to an operations support system of the network through an interface for storing in the digital repository.

19. The system of Claim 15, wherein the end-user provisioning mechanism is further configured to:

allow an end-user to specify requested services through a registration application of an operations support system of the network, and

transmit an indicator of the requested services to the desired service provider through an interface between the operations support system and the desired service provider.

20. The system of Claim 15, wherein the end-user provisioning mechanism is further configured to update the indicator in the digital repository to reflect a change in the selected service.

21. The system of Claim 15, wherein the end-user provisioning mechanism is further configured to determine whether the desired service provider has an automated provisioning application and to transfer the end-user to a provisioning application to collect the end-user service provisioning information, wherein

the provisioning application comprises the automated provisioning application of the desired service provider when it is determined that the desired service provider has an automated provisioning application, and

the provisioning application comprises a provisioning application of an operations support system of the network when it is determined that the desired service provider does not have an automated provisioning application.

22. The system of Claim 15, wherein the end-user service provisioning information comprises at least a level of service to be provided to the end-user by the desired service provider.

23. The system of Claim 15, wherein the network comprises a network dedicated to broadband data transport services.

24. The system of Claim 15, wherein the network comprises a network configured to provide at least one of Internet access, digital video services, analog video services, packetized voice, voice-over-Internet Protocol, interactive video, interactive television, near video-on-demand, video-on-demand, data services, and telephony services.

25. The system of Claim 15, wherein the network comprises an open access network.

26. The system of Claim 15, wherein at least one of the plurality of service providers comprises an Internet service provider.

27. The system of Claim 15, wherein the services comprise at least one of Internet access, digital video services, analog video services, packetized voice, voice-over-Internet

Protocol, interactive video, interactive television, near video-on-demand, video-on-demand, data services, and telephony services.

28. A system for an end-user to select a service provider from one or more service providers providing services on a network, comprising:

means for prompting the end-user for end-user information;

means for determining based on the end-user information whether the network provides service in a geographic location of the end-user;

means for displaying to the end-user a list of one or more service providers available to the end-user to provide services on the network;

means for selecting by the end-user one of the one or more service providers as a desired service provider;

means for transmitting the end-user information to the desired service provider;

means for transmitting by the desired service provider end-user service provisioning information to an operations support system of the network;

means for storing an indicator in a digital repository of the operations support system based on the end-user service provisioning information indicating that the end-user has selected the desired service provider for providing a selected service; and

means for providing service to the end-user by the desired service provider based on the indicator.

29. A computer program product, comprising:

    a computer storage medium; and

    a computer program code mechanism embedded in the computer storage medium for causing a processor to select a service provider from a plurality of service providers for providing a service to an end-user of a network, the computer program code mechanism having,

        a first computer code device configured to maintain end-user service provider selection information in a digital repository,

        a second computer code device configured to prompt an end-user for end-user information including a geographic location of the end-user, and to determine based on the end-user information whether the network provides service in the geographic location,

        a third computer code device mechanism configured to display to the end-user a list of one or more service providers of the plurality of service providers available to the end-user to provide services on the network and to allow the end-user to select one of the one or more service providers as a desired service provider,

        a fourth computer code device configured to transmit the end-user information to the desired service provider, to collect and transmit end-user service provisioning information to an operations support system of the network, and to store an indicator in the digital repository based on the end-user service provisioning information indicating that the end-user has selected the desired service provider for providing a selected service, and

        a fifth computer code device configured to provide services to the end-user by the desired service provider based on the indicator in the digital repository.

30. The computer program product of Claim 29, wherein the second computer code device is further configured to decline the end-user for service on the network when it is determined that the network does not provide service in the geographic location of the end-user.

31. The computer program product of Claim 30, wherein the second computer code device is further configured to store a declined location indicator in the digital repository corresponding to the geographic location of the end-user, to query the digital repository for the declined location indicator, and to use the declined location indicator for at least one of planning a future build-out of the network, performing a future marketing study, and performing a future sales and marketing activity.

32. The computer program product of Claim 29, wherein the second computer code device is further configured to infer a geographic location of the end user by prompting the end user for information corresponding to a previous account including at least one of a name, a previous account number, and a password.

33. The computer program product of Claim 29, wherein the fourth computer code device is further configured to:

transfer an end-user to a registration application of the desired service provider for specifying requested services,

pre-populate the registration application with the end-user information through an interface with the registration application, and

transmit the end-user service provisioning information to an operations support system of the network through an interface for storing in the digital repository.

34. The computer program product of Claim 29, wherein the fourth computer code device is further configured to:

allow an end-user to specify requested services through a registration application of an operations support system of the network, and

transmit an indicator of the requested services to the desired service provider through an interface between the operations support system and the desired service provider.

35. The computer program product of Claim 29, wherein the fourth computer code device is further configured to update the indicator in the digital repository to reflect a change in the selected service.

36. The computer program product of Claim 29, wherein the fourth computer code device is further configured to determine whether the desired service provider has an automated provisioning application and to transfer the end-user to a provisioning application to collect the end-user service provisioning information, wherein

the provisioning application comprises the automated provisioning application of the desired service provider when it is determined that the desired service provider has an automated provisioning application, and

the provisioning application comprises a provisioning application of an operations support system of the network when it is determined that the desired service provider does not have an automated provisioning application.

37. The computer program product of Claim 29, wherein the end-user service provisioning information comprises at least a level of service to be provided to the end-user by the desired service provider.

38. The computer program product of Claim 29, wherein the network comprises a network dedicated to broadband data transport services.

39. The computer program product of Claim 29, wherein the network comprises a network configured to provide at least one of Internet access, digital video services, analog video services, packetized voice, voice-over-Internet Protocol, interactive video, interactive television, near video-on-demand, video-on-demand, data services, and telephony services.

40. The computer program product of Claim 29, wherein the network comprises an open access network.

41. The computer program product of Claim 29, wherein at least one of the plurality of service providers comprises an Internet service provider.

42. The computer program product of Claim 24, wherein the services comprise at least one of Internet access, digital video services, analog video services, packetized voice, voice-over-Internet Protocol, interactive video, interactive television, near video-on-demand, video-on-demand, data services, and telephony services.